



Minutes of Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 2:30pm at Tipperary Environmental Centre for Learning (formerly Cabragh Wetlands) Cabragh, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.


In the Chair:	Cllr. Sean Ryan
Members Present:	Cllr. John Carroll Cllr. Pat English Cllr. Eddie Moran Cllr. Peggy Ryan Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro Cllr. Pamela Quirke O'Meara Cllr. Phyll Bugler Ms. Mary MacMahon, (PPN) Mr. Charles Stanley-Smith, (PPN) Mr. David Philip (PPN) Mr. Brian Pope (Environmental) Mr. Darragh Scott (Agriculture)
Officials Present:	Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services Mr. Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. Fergal Condon, Administrative Officer Ms. Colette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist Ms. Maeve Egan, Staff Officer
Apologies:	Cllr. Declan Burgess Ms. Sarah Fogarty (Business) Cllr. John Fitzgerald

Agenda Item		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	The Chairperson welcomed the committee members to the first meeting of the newly appointed Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee.
2.	Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	N/A
3.	Minutes of meeting held on 2024 Matters Arising from the meeting	The minutes of the SPC meeting held on the 27 th of March 2024 were approved as proposed by Cllr. Eddie Moran and seconded by Cllr. Pat English. No matters arising.
4.	TCC Strategic Policy Committee Standing Orders (Draft) for consideration	Item 7(c) in the draft, the timeline of agreeing a multi-annual work programme linked to the TCC Corporate Plan, was discussed. Committee members are encouraged to bring topics/submissions to the SPC for discussion. It was noted that relevant speakers could also be facilitated at the members' request. A request to consider facilitating evening meetings was also discussed. It was agreed to forward these comments to Corporate Support Services.
5.	Overview of functions, roles & responsibilities of the Env. &	Mr. Moroney delivered a presentation on the Functions, Roles and Responsibilities of the Environment & Climate Action Section. The Chairperson opened the floor to questions.



	Climate Action Section	<p>It was noted that policy measures relating to the Climate Action Plan have been confirmed for 2025. This information will be contained in the Annual Report, which will be brought to the February plenary Council meeting.</p> <p>The DZ (Mid Tipperary Decarbonising Zone), and the need to highlight opportunities for farming diversification was reiterated.</p> <p>Progress with regard to the Historic Landfill Programme was outlined.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the five-year Corporate Plan is due before the January plenary Council meeting, with "Environment & Climate Action" identified as one of the 5 strategic priorities.</p> <p>The importance of food waste prevention, and ongoing engagement with food outlets was discussed.</p> <p>Committee members requested speakers from LAWPRO and EPA as appropriate, to provide updates on declining water quality in rivers and lakes in the county.</p> <p>The need for continued public awareness campaigns and public engagement was also reiterated.</p>
6.	Burial Ground Development Policy 2024 (Draft) for consideration	<p>Mr. Holland delivered a presentation on the Burial Ground Development Policy 2024 (Draft) document.</p> <p>The policy document was approved to go forward to a future Plenary meeting on the proposal of Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr. Eddie Moran. The Chairperson opened the floor to questions.</p> <p>Capacity issues at burial grounds in the county were discussed. It was confirmed that any proposals/requests for extensions to burial grounds are subject to suitability criteria. It was confirmed that while boundaries are defined by RC parish for mapping purposes, Tipperary County Council burial grounds are open to burials of all faiths and none. Inurnment of ashes, whilst not currently in high demand, can be facilitated at columbarium locations in the county. Options for greening of burial grounds, and education and funding for same was noted, and the ongoing work of burial ground committees was acknowledged.</p>
6.	PPN Pillar Update	Members of the PPN advised that as this was the first meeting, they had no update for this meeting.
7.	Dates of Next Meeting	Members agreed that online attendance should be facilitated for future meetings.
8.	AOB	Members acknowledged the work of the newly appointed Biodiversity Officer, AnnMarie Fleming.

Signed:


Chairperson

Date:

12 / 3 / 25
M.E.GAW